REMARKS

In this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 36 and 38 to overcome the rejection and specify the embodiments of the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced by the amended claims. All claims are now present for examination and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following comments.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 36 – 39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Imasaki et al. (US Pat. Appl. No. 2003/0094209).

Applicant traverses the rejection and respectfully submits that the presently claimed invention is obvious over the cited reference. More specifically, The present invention of Claim 36 is that a tube has a hollow portion with a fine diameter for a contact probe to inspect an electric conduction in a semiconductor manufacturing technology, and a conductive layer which is a plated layer and has a higher electric conductivity than that of an electrodeposit material or a surrounding material, wherein a thickness of the electrodeposit material or the surrounding material is 5 μm or more and 50 μm or less, when an inner shape of the hollow portion has a circular sectional shape.

Accordingly, the tube of the present invention is used for the contact probe to inspect the electric conduction. Thus, it is necessary that the thickness of the electrodeposit material or the surrounding material is 5 μm or more and 50 μm or less, and the conductive layer has a higher electric conductivity than that of the electrodeposit material or the surrounding material for the contact probe.

On the other hand, a two-layer clad pipe of cited document Imasaki is used to composite ferrules mounted at ends of optical fibers to provide optical fiber connections.

Therefore, Imasaki discloses that a piano wire has a diameter of 127-129 microns (refer to [0052]) and does not disclose that the conductive layer has a higher electric conductivity than that of the electrodeposit material or the surrounding material. That is because it is unnecessary for ferrules and optical fibers to be a thin thickness and the higher electric conductivity of the conductive layer.

Accordingly, the purpose of the use and the structure between the present invention of Claim 36 and Imasaki are different. Therefore, the present invention of Claim 36 would not be obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art by Imasaki.

Regarding Claim 37, it is necessary that the tube has the inner diameter of the hollow portion is 10 μm or more and 85 μm or less for the contact probe. Therefore, the present invention of Claim 37 would not be obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art by Imasaki because of the differences of the purpose and the structure between the present invention and Imasaki.

In addition, the present invention of Claim 38 is that a tube has a hollow portion with a fine diameter for a contact probe to inspect an electric conduction in a semiconductor manufacturing technology, and a conductive layer which is a plated layer and has a higher electric conductivity than that of an electrodeposit material or a surrounding material, wherein a thickness of the electrodeposit material or the surrounding material is 5 μm or more and 50 μm or less, when an inner shape of the hollow portion has a polygonal sectional shape.

Accordingly, the purpose of the use and the structure between the present invention of Claim 38 and Imasaki are different. Thus, the present invention of Claim 38 would not be obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art by Imasaki.

Regarding Claim 39, it is necessary that the tube has the diameter of the inscribed circle of the hollow portion is 10 μm or more and 85 μm or less for the contact probe.

Therefore, the present invention of Claim 39 would not be obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art by Imasaki because of the differences of the purpose and the structure between the present invention and Imasaki.

In summary, the present claims are not obvious over Imasaki and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Having overcome all outstanding grounds of rejection, the application is now in condition for allowance, and prompt action toward that end is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC

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By _____
John C. Holman
Registration No. 22,769

(202) 638-6666
400 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
Atty. Dkt. No.: P71395US0